UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/51/42
12 December 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 116 and 40

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

United Nations political presence in El Salvador

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/51/L.58

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of draft resolution A/51/L.58, the General Assembly would, inter alia:

(a) Note with satisfaction the commitment by the Government of El Salvador and other parties to the peace accords to the full implementation of the provisions of the peace accords and urge them to work together to complete this implementation without delay;

(b) Decide, in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 33 of the report of the Secretary-General, that the Representative of the Secretary-General in El Salvador should be withdrawn at the conclusion of the mandate of ONUV on 31 December 1996 and that the responsibilities of verification and good offices entrusted to the United Nations should be executed through periodic visits to El Salvador by a high-level envoy from New York who would keep the Secretary-General informed on a regular basis;

(c) Also decide that the envoy would be assisted for a period of six months in the discharge of these responsibilities by a small support unit in El Salvador, working with the administrative support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(d) Call upon Member States and international institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Government and people of El Salvador and to lend support to the efforts of the United Nations in El Salvador for the purposes of peace-building and development.

B. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

2. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/51/L.58, the United Nations Verification Office in El Salvador would be closed as at 31 December 1996. The Secretary-General would execute the responsibilities of verification and good offices entrusted to the United Nations through periodic visits to El Salvador by his envoy from New York. The envoy would, however, be assisted in the discharge of those responsibilities by a small support unit that would remain in the field, with the administrative support of UNDP, for a period of six months.

3. The Organization's good offices would continue to be required in areas related to public security and judicial reform; the land transfer programme; and the transfer of the rural human settlements.

4. The approved 1996 staffing of ONUV consisted of seven international staff (1 D-2, 1 P-5, 4 P-4 and 1 General Service) and three civilian police, supported by 11 staff at the Local level. The staffing proposed for the support unit would consist of four international staff, three Professionals (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2) and one General Service staff; and one civilian police, to be supported by seven staff at the Local level.

C. Indication of additional requirements

5. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/51/L.58, the requirements for the support unit for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997 are estimated at $408,700. These costs include three posts for Professionals (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2), one General Service, seven Local level staff and one civilian police.

6. The three Professional posts (2 Political Affairs Officers and 1 Legal Officer) would be required to follow up on the implementation of pending peace agreements in El Salvador. Their functions are as follows:

(a) The Legal Officer (P-4) would follow up on the implementation of public security issues and provide legal counsel on all issues; carry out verification functions; and maintain close contact with the parties, the National Civilian Police and the National Academy for Public Security. The Officer would report and advise on measures required to ensure compliance with commitments related to public security;

(b) One Political Affairs Officer (P-3) would follow up on all issues subject to verification on human settlements, and carry out verification functions on land, public security, administration of justice and reinsertion at the regional level. The Officer would also maintain daily contacts and work closely with the parties and relevant institutions concerned;

(c) One Political Affairs Officer (P-2) would be assigned to follow up on the implementation of land transfer and the transfer programme. The Officer would report and advise on measures to facilitate implementation at the field level, in particular regarding the decentralized execution of the land transfer programme, and chair various working groups and trilateral meetings.

7. The estimated requirements are summarized in the table below. Details are contained in the annex to the present document.

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1997
Civilian police	18.0
Salaries and common staff costs	213.0
Mission subsistence allowance	63.0
Travel of staff	4.8
Consultants	29.6
Rental and maintenance of premises	13.5
Transport operations	16.8
Communications	5.1
Miscellaneous services and supplies	44.5
Freight	0.4
Total	408.7

D. Contingency fund

8. The activities relating to verification and good offices entrusted to the United Nations are of an extraordinary nature relating to the maintenance of peace and security and should be dealt with, as was done on previous occasions, outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

E. Potential for absorption

9. No provision has been made in the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 under section 3, Peacekeeping operations and special missions, to cover the 1997 net additional requirements of $408,700 related to the verification and good offices mission in El Salvador.

10. It will be recalled that in the course of 1996, subsequent to adopting the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, the General Assembly adopted additional mandates giving rise to additional requirements in respect of El Salvador. At the same time, the Assembly approved commitment authority amounting to $1,135,900 gross for ONUV. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/C.5/51/38), the revised estimated requirements for the implementation of the verification and good offices mission in El Salvador amounted to $886,000 (net of staff assessment). Accordingly, the related net appropriation of $886,000 ($1,021,900 gross) for activities undertaken by the Office in 1996 in response to General Assembly resolution 50/226 of 10 May 1996, was requested in the context of the first performance report.

11. It is not anticipated, therefore, that the related 1997 requirements could be absorbed from within the provisions under section 3 of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, taking into account the reduction already proposed in document A/C.5/50/57 and Add.1.

F. Action required by the General Assembly

12. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/51/L.58, an additional appropriation of $408,700 would be required for 1997 under section 3 of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. An additional appropriation of $68,200 would also be required under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

ANNEX

Support unit in El Salvador

Supplementary information on cost estimates for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Estimated requirements 1997
A. Personnel costs	
1. Civilian police	18.0
The estimates relate to monthly mission allowance of one civilian police for six months at a daily rate of $87 ($15,700) and travel costs from El Salvador ($2,300)	
2. Salaries and common staff costs	213.0
This provision would cover salaries and common staff costs of four international staff (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service) and seven Local level posts. Included in the estimates is the repatriation travel of four international staff at the end of the mandate period.	
3. Mission subsistence allowance	63.0
Monthly subsistence allowance is calculated at a rate of $87 per day for 181 days in respect of four international staff.	
4. Travel of staff	4.8
Provisions under this heading relate to regular visits to El Salvador by a high-level envoy of the Secretary-General. It is estimated that during the mandate period, three visits would be made at an estimated cost of $1,600 per trip ($4,800).	

	Estimated requirements 1997
5. Consultants	29.6
Provisions are also made for two local consultants for a period of six months: one EDP consultant dealing with human settlements and the land transfer programme; and the other, a political analyst, to provide an overview of the political scene in the context of the remaining peace accords. The estimates are based on a monthly cost of $2,470 for each consultant.	
Total, personnel costs	328.4

B. Operational costs

6. Rental and maintenance of premises	13.5
Provisions under this heading relate to rental of premises in El Salvador, estimated at $2,250 per month, including utilities.	
7. Transport operations	16.8
Provisions are made for the maintenance of vehicles ($12,300); petrol, oil and lubricants ($2,600); fuel for generators ($300); and third-party liability insurance ($1,600).	
8. Communications	5.1
Provision is made for user charges for commercial communications such as facsimile, telephone and cryptograph, at an average cost of $750 per month for six months. Spare parts and services are estimated at $100 per month for the same period.	
9. Miscellaneous services and supplies	44.5
The estimates of $38,600 relating to miscellaneous services consist of part-time secretarial assistance, estimated at $900 per month ($5,400); official hospitality ($1,000); security services ($13,200); maintenance of furniture and equipment at $300 a month ($1,800); and other miscellaneous services ($1,200). Reimbursement to UNDP for administrative services it renders to the Office on all matters dealing with financial, logistics and other administrative aspects of the support unit is estimated at $16,000.	

	Estimated requirements 1997
The cost of miscellaneous supplies is estimated at $5,900 for the six-month period. These would cover stationery and office supplies at a monthly rate of $750 ($4,500); sanitation and cleaning materials estimated at $50 per month ($300); subscriptions to international and local newspapers and technical communications publications, estimated at $75 per month ($500); other miscellaneous supplies, estimated at $100 per month ($600).	
10. Freight	0.4
Provision is made for the shipment of surplus office furniture and equipment to other missions upon closure of the Office.	
Total, operational costs	80.3
Grand total	408.7